

Docket No. 6700-1
Application Serial No. 09/849,854

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tires typically have convex external sidewall surfaces and concave internal sidewall surfaces with a generally constant wall thickness.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Add new claims 22 through 24.

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22. (New) A tire for mounting on a wheel rim, comprising:

an integral homogeneous toroidal body having a pair of spaced-apart radially extending sidewalls and a cross member, each said sidewall having a first and a second end and an internal face and an external face, with the second end of each of the sidewalls integrally merging into the cross member;

a set of rim-engaging surfaces at the first end of each of the sidewalls;

at least one road-engaging surface on an external surface of the cross member;

and

an annular chamber defined by the internal faces of the sidewalls and an internal top wall on the cross member opposite the at least one road-engaging surface;

wherein the set of rim-engaging surfaces includes a lobe-like projection at the first end of each of the sidewalls, the lobe-like projections, the internal faces of the sidewalls and an internal top wall on the cross member opposite the at least one road-engaging surface form a closed chamber when the tire is mounted on the rim.

23. (New) The tire according to claim 22, wherein the respective lobe-like projections are separable when the tire is not mounted on the rim, but are compressed into engagement when the tire is mounted in the rim, thereby closing the annular chamber.

24. (New) The tire according to claim 22, wherein the lobe-like projections at the end of each of the sidewalls conjoin the respective sidewalls and close the annular chamber.